

SD DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND REGULATION

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Scanning Technology Streamlines Vehicle Registration Process

(PIERRE, SD) –Vehicle owners still making the trip to their county treasurer’s office to renew their vehicle registrations will be in and out sooner, thanks to new scanning technology being utilized by those offices.

Hand-held scanners were delivered to all county treasurers’ offices earlier this month; such devices were tested and have been in use in the Pennington County Treasurer’s office since the middle of April. According to Deb Hillmer, Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Revenue & Regulation, the scanners allow county employees to swipe a customer’s driver license to begin computer transactions. They can also be used to scan the barcodes on the renewal cards now being mailed to vehicle owners to remind them that it’s time to renew. The scanners not only save processing time but also eliminate the possibility of errors when entering information into the SDcars system.

Hillmer says the scanners are the latest enhancement to the year-old system. On-line vehicle renewals became available in early March and electronic seller’s permits were added several weeks ago. She says as the system continues to evolve and other features become available, more South Dakota vehicles owners are finding the on-line renewal system offers both convenience and functionality.

“We’ve received many good comments from people who have used the SDcars system over the past few months,” Hillmer said. “They tell us it’s very user-friendly, easy to follow, and much more convenient since you can renew your vehicle from your home computer. We’re very pleased with the response the system has gotten so far and are confident that once people try it, they’ll really like using it.”

From March 1 to April 30, 2009, nearly 4,000 vehicle renewals were completed on-line, with about 6% of them coming from Minnehaha County. Since electronic seller’s permits became available on the SDcars website in early May, 195 have been issued. Under the state’s license plate with owner system, individuals selling vehicles through private sales are required to obtain a seller’s permit prior to the vehicle being sold. The seller’s permit, which is free, allows the buyer to drive the vehicle in the interval between purchase and registration for a period of 30 days or upon registration, whichever comes first. Only one permit per vehicle is allowed to be issued on-line; additional permits must be obtained from your county treasurer’s office. On-line reprints are available on the day of issue with a maximum of 10 permits allowed per on-line visit.

The on-line renewal system can be accessed at www.SDcars.org and is available from 90 days up to 10 days prior to the vehicle's registration expiration date; on-line renewals are not accepted less than 10 days prior to the registration expiration date to allow time for processing. Because the transaction is completed electronically, a \$1.00 convenience fee is assessed per vehicle, in addition to the registration and mailing fees. Acceptable forms of payment include electronic check, credit cards (MasterCard or Discover only), or ATM/debit cards supported by Pulse, Star, and NYCE.

Only vehicles that are within the 90-day renewal period can be completed on-line; boat and certain snowmobile renewals are not available at this time but will be added in the future along with other enhancements. Address changes must also be made through your county treasurer's office prior to on-line renewal.

For more information on the SDcars system, contact the South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles at 605.773.3541 or visit their website at www.state.sd.us/drr2/motorvehicle.